

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

May 23, 2011

The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We are extremely concerned by recent reports that Erik Prince has been hired to form an army of foreign troops for the United Arab Emirates. Particularly under current turbulent conditions in the Middle East, we find it very worrisome that private U.S. citizens are providing such extensive military recruitment and training for foreign forces. We ask that you clarify whether Mr. Prince and his company are in full compliance with all U.S. laws and have obtained all necessary permits to conduct this work in the U.A.E, as well as broader U.S. government policy toward the export of military services and training. Also, are you aware of Mr. Prince holding similar contracts in other foreign countries?

As you are aware, on May 14, 2011, *The New York Times* reported that the U.A.E. has contracted with Mr. Prince's company, Reflex Responses (R2), to assemble an 800-member battalion of foreign troops in the United Arab Emirates. The following day, the U.A.E. confirmed that it had a contract with the company to provide "operational, planning and training support" to the military. According to reports, training is provided, in part, by retired American soldiers.

The export and import of defense products and services are regulated under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Section 120.9 of ITAR defines defense services to include "Military training of foreign units and forces, regular and irregular, including formal or informal instruction of foreign persons in the United States or abroad or by correspondence courses, technical, educational, or information publications and media of all kinds, training aid, orientation, training exercise, and military advice." Based on reports, we believe that Reflex Response's contract with the UAE government would fall under that definition.

Further, ITAR section 124.1 requires that U.S. persons engaging in actions under Section 120.9 must first seek the approval of the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls before the defense services are provided; in this case, a technical assistance agreement. Under ITAR, prior written approval must be received from the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls. Has Mr. Prince, or any of the other Americans involved in the training contract, received such approval from DDTC? Is the Department of State confident that Mr. Prince and Reflex Responses are in full compliance with U.S. laws, including ITAR?

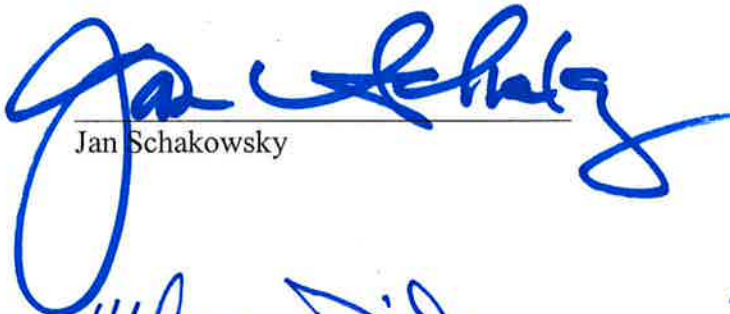
In addition, we would like to voice our concern about several aspects of Mr. Prince's reported operations in United Arab Emirates. Erik Prince relocated to U.A.E. amidst growing legal

challenges and controversy surrounding Blackwater, a company he founded and ran for many years. We have long expressed concerns about the U.S. government continuing to do business with Blackwater, despite that company's growing list of misconduct, and we are concerned that Mr. Prince is now exporting his services. In addition, the Emirati regime's use of an American-created and trained force of foreign troops has the potential to introduce further instability and suspicion into an already volatile region (and at a particularly sensitive time).

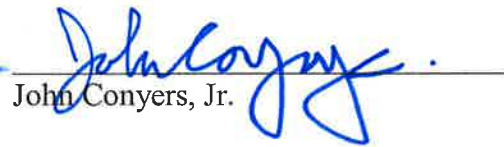
Finally, we question whether private U.S. citizens should be involved in recruiting and assembling forces, as well as providing military training and support to foreign governments and militaries. The implications of allowing a U.S. citizen to assemble a foreign legion in any foreign country, and especially in a combustible region like the Middle East, are serious and wide-ranging. We would appreciate any clarification as to U.S. policy toward private U.S. citizens who recruit, assemble, or train foreign militaries, and toward foreign countries that hire private U.S. citizens to train their militaries.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

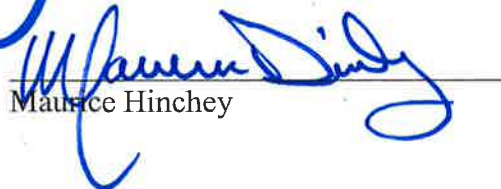
Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky



John Conyers, Jr.



Maurice Hinchey



James P. Moran



Peter Welch